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Lafayette Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 133, Lafayette, California 94549

Bulletin Vol. XIV, No. 1 October 1987

President: Oliver Hamlin - Phone (days): 283-6822
Editor: Shirley Thomson - Phone (days): 930-9050

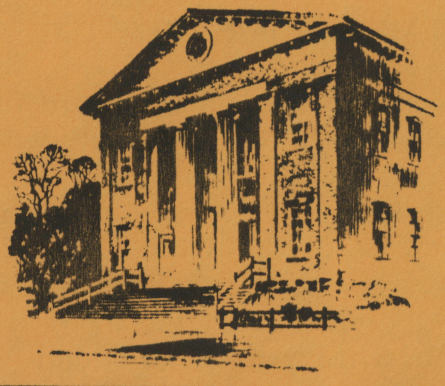
Dear Friends,

This is my first opportunity to greet you as President of the Lafayette Historical Society for the coming year. I am learning that this group is involved with the community in so many ways, it takes time to grasp it all. It is strictly a volunteer organization, and it needs your participation to make it work. I have lived in Lafayette since 1950, but that does not make me an expert on Lafayette's history by any means. It's fun to learn together.

It was a pleasant experience for me to have a small part in the building of the memorial gazebo at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Golden Gate Way. The gazebo was conceived by our own dedicated member Ray Peters many years ago, and it took at least ten years to bring it to completion and dedication as part of the bicentennial celebration of the Constitution. The gazebo is prominently located, so be sure to stop by and view the details of this beautiful structure when passing the area on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Congratulations to Ray Peters and other hardworking members of the Constitution Bicentennial Commission.

The Society recorded the Lafayesta parade and the dedication of the gazebo--including "Old Betsy" proudly leading the parade with George Wasson at the wheel.

Our autumn outing will be a field trip to Benicia on Saturday, November 7. We hope you will join us on the bus for a day of historical site visiting and good fellowship. Mark your calendar for the date and see inside for further details. Your suggestions for future field trips or outings are always welcome. Let us hear from you.



See you on the bus on Saturday, November 7.

Best regards,

Oliver D. Hamlin

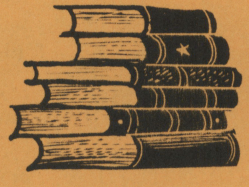
NEW BOOK ON LOCAL HISTORY

Sandy Kimball's latest work, *Moraga's Pride: Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados*, has just gone to the printer. Collaborating with researcher Brother Dennis Goodman of Saint Mary's College, Sandy has written an authoritative historical review of a significant portion of northern California.

Moraga Historical Society is publishing the book and has just announced that it is now taking prepublication orders.

Since *Moraga's Pride* documents the history of the rancho which encompassed nearly half of modern Lafayette, it will be of interest to many LHS readers. And given the early December publication date, it seems likely that this book will be on a number of holiday gift lists.

Further information on the book is enclosed. Readers may place their prepublication orders by sending a check for $28 (standard edition) or $42 (deluxe edition) for each copy desired to the Moraga Historical Society, P.O. Box 103, Moraga 94556. (Prices after the December 10 publication date will be $32 and $48.)



NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Business meeting of the board of directors and committee chairs is scheduled to be held at Oliver Hamlin's home, 750 Old Jonas Hill Road, Lafayette, at 7:30 pm, on Tuesday, November 10. Call Ollie (283-6822, days; 284-1446) if you need directions or if you would like to place an item on the agenda. Members are welcome to attend.

NEW OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Members of the Board of Directors and committee chairs met on September 15 for election of officers and other business.

The new president--as noted on the cover page--is Olliver Hamlin. Officers and committee chairs for 1987-1988 year are as follows:

Rec. Sec.	Ruth Dyer
Cor. Sec.	Nancy Midwood
Treas.	Irene van Overveen
Archives	Betsy Willcuts
Fire Engine	George Wasson
Landmarks	James Craig
Membership	Lee Schell
Newsletter	Shirley Thomson
Clippings	Peggy Craig
Plaza Park Rep.	Ray Peters
Ann. Potluck	Richard Johnson
Program	Elizabeth Johnston
Publicity	Sandy Kimball
Publication Sales	Ruth Dyer

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS AND ADDRESS CHANGES

Our thanks to the many LHS members who responded in a timely manner to our dues reminder. We have updated the membership roster accordingly.

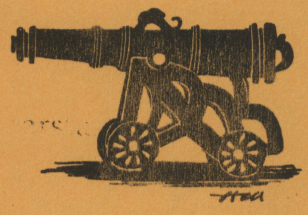
If you should find an error in your name or address as shown on the label on this newsletter, or if you have a change to report, please call Lee Schell (284-7730) or Shirley Thomson (930-9050).

BENICIA, CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL, 1853 AND 1854

by Elizabeth Johnston

Benicia is one of the oldest cities along the delta. Because of its proximity to early, fast-growing San Francisco port, it exuded an upward hope for its own future growth. Pique your curiosity and find out, when we tour the capitol and museum, how and why that course was changed. Member Ruth Dyer will answer some questions and prepare us for others as we travel to Benicia.

We will announce the exact itinerary later. However, it is expected to include the capitol building, the 1790 saltbox rectory next to the lovely St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the arsenal grounds, commandant's home, military hospital, camel barns, Fischer-Hanlon house and environs, now housing antiques, and artists' studios nearby.



We will lunch on the grounds of the commandant's home and return to Lafayette's Stanley School by 3 o'clock.

Hope you will join us. Please get your reservations in early. We got such an enthusiastic response to the comfortable highway-size bus we traveled in on the Maybeck tour that we've plunged in and reserved the same kind of bus again. It needs 57 interested paid tourists to fill it!

Hope to see you on the 7th.

A FEW DAYS LEFT TO SEE "ABOUT FACES"

Civic Arts Gallery, 1641 Locust Street in Walnut Creek will continue its well-received exhibit of 19th and 20th century portraiture through Sunday, October 18.

Lafayette's Jennie Bickerstaff's portrait is included among those presented in this widely varied collection. There are, as well, a number other contributions to this exhibit by local people (including our own Christine Schreiber and Joan Merryman). Many of the works shown come from the California Historical Society, Oakland Museum, and Saint Mary's College.

Civic Arts Gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday 12 to 5pm and from 7:30 to 9:30 on Friday and Saturday. For information, call 943-5864.

LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL TOUR

- BENICIA -

Meet at Stanley School at 9:45 AM . Saturday, November 7

Bus returns at approximately 3:00 PM

Reservations: Send check for $7 per person to
Ruth Dyer, 3110 Sweetbrier Circle, Lafayette, or
Elizabeth Johnston, 840 Broadmoor Court, Lafayette

Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea will be served.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY NOVEMBER 1.

Lafayette Historical Society
1062 Via Baja
Lafayette, CA 94549

FIRST CLASS MAIL